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Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
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Washington, DC 20551

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February 2, 1993

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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PETITION FOR RULE MAKING

Due to the current controversy about the health risks associated with hand-held cellular phones, I would like to submit the following proposal.

1. Prohibit the sale of all hand-held phones and radios that operate between 400MHz and 1300MHz.
 - A. This would include all cellular phones, amateur radio and business band hand-held radios.
 - B. This prohibition would continue until the health issues are resolved. If it is determined there is no risk, then the prohibition could be lifted. If there is a health risk, more permanent regulations can be implemented.

If there is any possibility, no matter how small, that the public is at risk from using cellular phones, or radios operating on these frequencies, it is the duty of the FCC to take action on this issue.

DISCUSSION OF ALTERNATIVES:

There will be opposition to the proposal from the radio manufacturers. Should the FCC not impose a temporary ban on the sale of these radios, possibly one of the following actions could be taken.

1. Limit the power output to between 100 to 500 milliwatts
2. Attach a permanent label to the radio with large type-face stating "Operation of this radio may cause cancer or other health risks".

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Cellular phone industry rocked by cancer scare

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New York Times

NEW YORK — It began last week when a Florida man said on a national television talk show that his wife's incessant use of a pocket-size cellular telephone had led to her fatal brain cancer. The next day, stock market investors, putting their faith in the man's story — or fearing that others would take it on faith — began dumping cellular telephone stocks. The cellular industry scoffed at such a wild notion and defended the phones as safe.

Friday, it became clear the issue would not go away. Wall Street continued to batter the shares of companies involved with portable cellular phones, the kind that have antennas next to the head and allow users to make calls from just about anywhere. They are different from cordless phones that broadcast a radio signal only a short distance within the home.

Stocks tumble

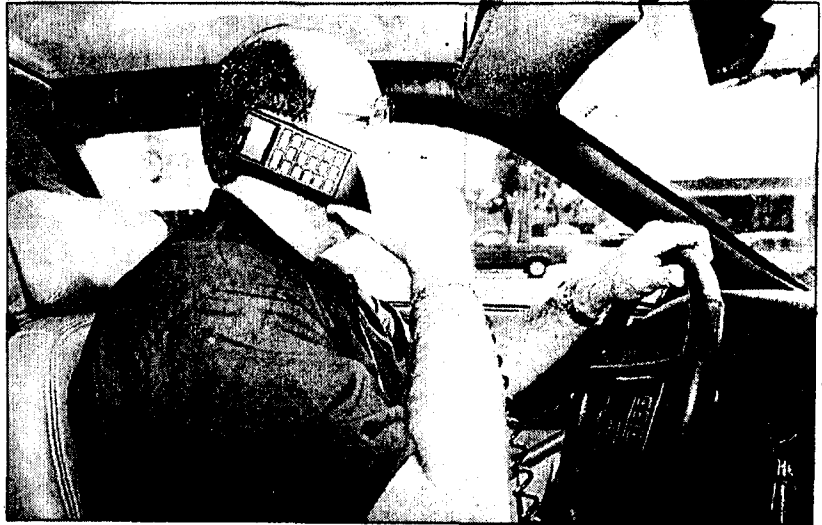
The shares of Motorola Inc., the biggest maker of cellular phones, have lost 20 percent since the scare began. McCaw Cellular Communications Inc., which is the largest provider of cellular service, has seen its shares skid 15 percent, including a \$3.375 drop Friday.

All week, the companies rushed to insist that there is no scientific evidence to indicate that there is any danger in using the phones.

While there is no proof that there are health risks, there is no research that specifically addresses the effects of cellular phones on the human body and the brain. Even the Environmental Protection Agency says it does not have sufficient information to declare unequivocally that cellular phones are safe.

Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., has asked two federal agencies to determine what the government knows about cellular phones and possible links to cancer.

So far, the health scare's impact on sales is hard to detect,



KNIGHT-RIDDER FILE PHOTOGRAPH

Some of the more than 10 million people who use cellular phones in the United States have begun to question whether they need them.

according to retailers and the operator of a major cellular telephone network. Among 2 million subscribers on the McCaw network, only 300 to 400 have called to inquire about the possible health danger over the last week or so, and fewer than 30 have canceled their subscriptions because of health concerns, said Robert A. Ratcliffe, a McCaw spokesman.

Still, the concern is not tapering off. Thursday evening, two more television programs, CBS's "Street Stories" and CNN's "Larry King Live," focused on cellular telephones and safety, and ABC's "20-20" aired a segment Friday night.

Controversy widens

The shows broadened the controversy about the mysterious effects of electromagnetic fields. Not only do cellular telephones emit such fields, but so do electric hair dryers, microwave ovens and the overhead transmission lines of giant electric utilities. Scientists are divided over the malign effects, if any, of these fields.

One thing, however, is indisputable. The kind of energy in cellular telephones is fundamentally different from the kind of

energy that is known to cause cancer and birth defects, such as X-ray radiation.

Cellular phones work at very low power, about six-tenths of a watt, which leads many scientists to insist they are unlikely to cause much harm. However, the devices are held against the head, and there have been several disturbing studies that have contributed to the controversy.

In a key set of experiments, Dr. Stephen Cleary and his colleagues at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond found that if they took cells from human brain tumor tissue, grew them in lab dishes and exposed them for two hours to microwave radiation, the cells grew 30 percent faster than they had before, and the effect continued for days. The same growth-promoting effect could be seen when normal human blood cells were isolated in petri dishes and exposed to microwave radiation.

But the wattage used in those experiments exceeds that emitted by cellular phones. Nor do scientists know if the same things that happen to cells in dishes happen in living bodies.